



The National Clearinghouse for Veterans Treatment Courts at the
National Association of Drug Court Professionals



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Post Traumatic Stress Disorder/ Traumatic Brain Injury

- In 2010, an estimated 300,000 Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans were suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or major depression
- Repeated deployments increase the likelihood of PTSD
- Estimated 320,00 GWOT Veterans may have experienced a TBI ranging from mild to severe
- Slightly less than 50% of service members with TBI also have PTSD



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The Problem

- 1 in 6 War on Terror veterans have a substance abuse disorder
- 1 in 5 War on Terror veterans have a mental health condition
- Some veterans turn to drugs/alcohol as result of their service
- Traditional community treatment does not meet the needs of veterans
- Some veterans are ending up in the criminal justice system as a result of their service
- Instead of Incarceration! Rehabilitation!



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The Solution – Veterans Treatment Courts





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History of Drug Courts

- 1989 Miami-Dade site of first Drug Court
- Drug Courts bring together all stakeholders, judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, probation, treatment
- Accountability meets treatment
- Work together to use the leverage of the court to keep people in treatment long enough to permanently change
- Over 2,500 Drug Courts in all fifty states - Saving money, cutting crime, serving veterans



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History of Veterans Treatment Courts

- First Veterans Treatment Court, January of 2008 – Buffalo, NY
- A Hybrid Drug and Mental Health Court (combine)
- Provides veterans with intensive treatment and other services while holding them accountable to the court, society, their families and themselves
- Frequent court appearances and random drug tests
- Rewards for positive behavior and sanctions for negative



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Structure of a Veterans Treatment Court

- Veterans Health Administration (VHA) MOU
- Veterans Benefit Administration (VBA) MOU
- Veterans Service Organizations
- Vet Center MOU
- State Department of Veterans Affairs MOU
- DOL DVOP/LVER
- State/County Bar Associations
- Congressional Offices
- Community Agencies



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Tulsa Veterans Treatment Court

Tony Clum-Two tour Iraq Combat Veteran:

- TBI/PTSD
- 2nd DUI and suicidal
- Never enrolled in the VHA, VBA, Vet Center, OKDVA
- Unemployed
- Divorced and lost custody of his son



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Tulsa Veterans Treatment Court

Tony Clum now...

- Graduate who led his substance abuse groups
- Service connected, VBA
- Qualified for Voc-Rehab to attend the University of Tulsa
- Free hunting and fishing license from the ODVA
- Coaches High School Football
- Gained custody of his son (brings him to court)
- Goes to Vet Center regularly



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Veterans Treatment Courts Today

- There are currently 99 VTC's operating in the Nation
- Growing at five times the rate of Drug Courts
- Over 100 more being planned
- Changing the way our Criminal Justice System and the VA treats veterans



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Veterans Treatment Courts Today





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- 501 (c) 3 Non-profit
- Justice For Vets launched November 11, 2010
- Funding



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Justice For Vets/NDCI

The Veterans Treatment Court Planning Initiative

- Funded from the Department of Justice (DOJ) Grant
- 5-day training program
- Scholarships provided for travel, lodging, and meals
- 3 VTCPI Buffalo, NY/Santa Clara, CA/Tulsa, OK
- Trained 300 individuals and 32 VTC
- Webinars





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Justice For Vets/NDICI

Veterans Treatment Court Mentor Court Network

- Funded through a grant from the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), SAMHSA
- Research, training, and technical assistance
- Buffalo (NY) Veterans Treatment Court
- Tulsa (OK) Veterans Treatment Court
- Santa Clara County (CA) Veterans Treatment Court
- Orange County (CA) Combat Veterans Treatment Court



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Veterans Treatment Court Mentor Court Network

The Tulsa Veterans Treatment Court

- National Mentor Court
- Trained over 35 Courts from across the Nation
- Site Visits
- Judge/Prosecutor/VHA/VSO/State Dept/Vet Center/VBA



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17th Annual NADCP Drug Court Training Conference

- Largest conference in the world on substance abuse, mental health, CJS
- Largest gathering of VTC Professionals in the history of our Nation
- 30 hours of Veterans Treatment Court-specific training
- Panels
- Sessions
- Targeting
- Mentoring
- National Guard
- Military Cultural Competency
- Ten Key Components



www.JusticeForVets.org

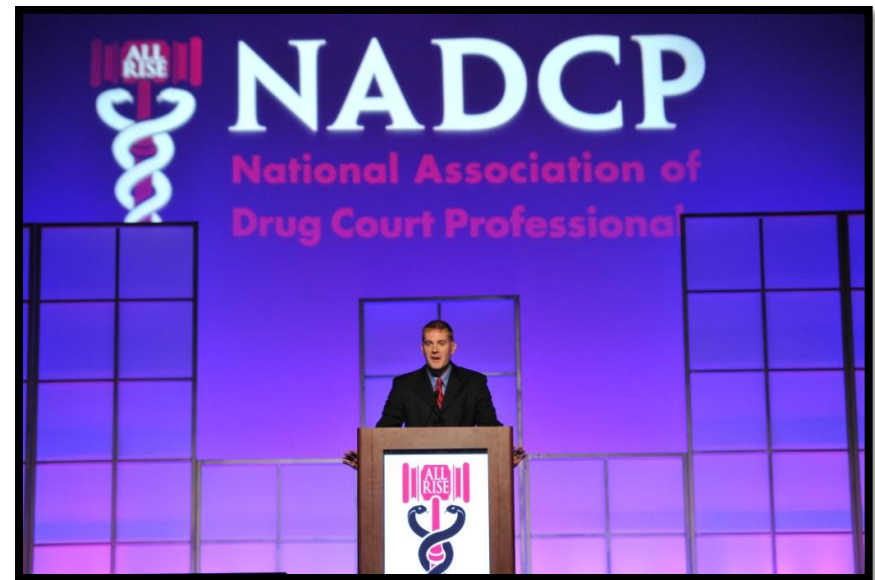


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17th Annual NADCP Drug Court Training Conference

Nic Stefanovic Rochester VTC Graduate

*"For me, the battle began
when I came home. Judge
Patricia Marks and the
Rochester Veterans Treatment
Court team saved my life."*



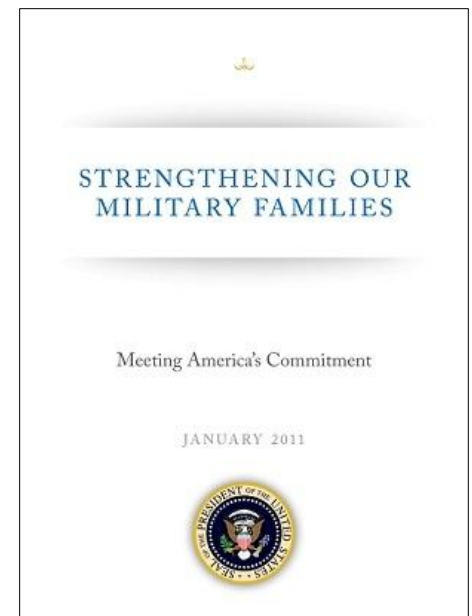


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Strengthening Our Military Families: Meeting America's Commitment

"In order to address the root causes of criminal behavior and reduce involvement with the criminal justice system, DOJ, and HHS will partner to further develop the Veterans Treatment Court concept."

*"Training and technical assistance dollars have been reallocated to address this growing need. The next **Veterans Drug Court Planning Initiative** will be held in 2011 to train 10 teams from various cities in the country, in order to best coordinate services for Veterans with PTSD, TBI, and substance abuse problems."*





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Outreach



General (ret.) Barry McCaffrey, General Craig McKinley, Matt Stiner



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State Legislation

- Colorado
- Illinois
- Oregon
- Texas
- Maine





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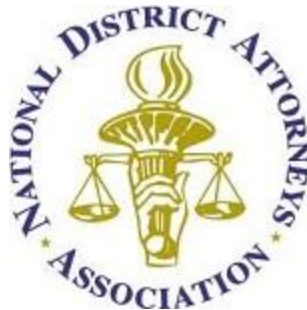
Support





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Support



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Veterans Treatment Court Committee

- **Chair, General (Ret.) Barry McCaffrey**
- Judge Robert Rancourt, Chair, NADCP Board of Directors
- Judge Robert Russell
- Buddy Gilmore
- Judge Stephen Manley
- Judge Richard Gebelein
- Judge Renee Worke
- Judge Leonia Lloyd
- Judge Mike Barrassee
- Judge Jamey Hueston



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Veterans Treatment Court Mentor Functions

There is no bond as strong as the one that exists between those who have fought for their country

- Advocate and Ally
- Resource for:
 - Housing
 - Transportation
 - Education
 - Training
 - Employment
 - Legal



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Who are Veterans Treatment Court Mentors

- Law enforcement
- Lawyers
- Department of Labor
- Students
- Vet Center
- Reserve and National Guard
- Veterans Service Organizations
- Businessmen and women
- School teachers



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Veterans Treatment Court Mentors in Court

- Matching
 - Branch of Service
 - Combat vs. non-combat
 - Military Occupational Specialty
 - Similar age/gender/ethnicity/tribe

- Attend Court scheduled sessions
 - Be supportive and understanding of the veteran clients
 - Work with agencies in court such as the VHA, VBA, DOL, Vet Center
State Department/Commission of Veterans Affairs, V.S.O.'s, etc.



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Peer to Peer





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